

News

Air Force Daedalian award

The 366th Fighter Wing and Maintenance Group have been selected by Air Combat Command to compete for the Air Force Daedalian Weapon System Maintenance Trophy. Brig. Gen. David Gillet, Air Force director of maintenance, and other members from Headquarters Air Force are slated to conduct a nine-hour evaluation in April, during which the 366th MXG will present their story of the integration of maintenance with the total wing mission.

Road closure

First Avenue, the street which runs down the center of Eagle View housing area, will be closed to thru traffic between Spuce Street and the parking lot on the south-west side of the Gunfighters Club beginning Monday through Wednesday. This closure is needed because of a new water distribution system being installed. Please excuse this inconvenience and plan your routes through housing accordingly.

Base supply needs

For efficient funds management, base personnel are encouraged to source DRMO first for all supply needs. Coordinate with 366th Logistic Readiness Squadron customer service. Contact Staff Sgt. Lackman at 828-3820, Staff Sgt. Van Dyk at 828-6358 or Tech. Sgt. Prescott at 828-6430. For all base supply concerns call 828-2622 or 828-3820.

FTAC awards

Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Allen, 366th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, who received the First Term Airman Center's "Sharp Troop" award for class 04I. Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Stacey Wagoner, 726th Air Control Squadron, for receiving the "Razor Sharp" award for class 04I.

Dry cleaners

Laundry Dry Cleaners in the base exchange is now open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Survivor benefit plan

Think of SBP as your family's bonus for a successful career. Approximately six months prior to official retirement individuals receive an appointment date and time for a briefing to learn more about SBP. For more information call Ms. Michelle Lippert at 828-2475.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kathy Myles

Bad boys

366th Security Forces investigator Staff Sgt. Ian Bock gives Airmen from SFS an operation briefing March 8, prior to a sting operation conducted in the base housing construction area. See story page 6.

Gunfighters prepare for war, train like they fight

By Senior Airman Sergio Aguirre
Gunfighter public affairs

The Gunfighters are preparing to play in a three-day exercise designed to test their combat capabilities in a real world environment. The exercise will focus on war skills and deployment environment adaptability.

"First, we are giving AEF 5/6 players a training exercise that will prepare them for their summer deployment," said Lt. Col. Dean Lee, 366th Wing plans and programs chief. "Second, we are going to provide an evaluation of the exercise to define where we stand in our combat capability. Both of these will give the Wing Commander a clear look at his Wing's combat readiness."

The exercise which takes place at Mountain Home's "Al MOAB," a simulated air base, will provide players a large dose of realism to their combat training while preparing them for conducting operations in a hot, sandy desert environment. The environment is as close to the real thing as possible, a goal which the 366th Wing plans and programs office strives for.

"There are numerous special interest items for this exercise. We will continue to test players on their self-aid

and buddy care procedures as well as weapons training," said Colonel Lee. "We are not planning on pulling folks out to fire their weapons, but they will be carrying them during the exercise."

Many of the previous exercises grouped command and control operations with other support agencies. This time around the exercise planners have separated them for a more realistic combat training scenario.

"We will be looking closely at command and control functions," said Colonel Lee. "We have some new computer programs that we will be integrating into the training. This will allow players to become familiar with systems they would encounter at their deployed locations."

The exercise has been in the planning stages for some time according to base officials. Planners hope Gunfighters take away the valuable lessons written into the exercise script.

"Players should expect to get attacked, get shot at and expect to have numerous challenges in many areas. Actually it will be a lot like being deployed in a real combat environment," said Colonel Lee. "I want to see how ready we are for deployment. I hope folks realize we are not as prepared as we think we are for all situations. We must learn there is always room for improvement."

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4-day Weather Forecast

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
			
Partly Cloudy	Showers	Few Showers	Cloudy
Hi 56 F Lo 35 F	Hi 57 F Lo 37 F	Hi 57 F Lo 33 F	Hi 55 F Lo 38 F

Last DUI:

(As of noon Thursday)

726th Air Control Squadron

Days without a DUI:

22

AADD made 109 saves in March, 265 in 2005

Commander's

This Hotline is your direct line to me. It's your opportunity to make Mountain Home AFB a better place to live and work. I review every response to Hotline questions, but functional experts prepare most responses. If possible, you should first contact the organization responsible for the problem or function. Your first sergeants, commanders and agency chiefs want to help, so please let them try. If you do not know how to proceed or if you have already tried your chain of command, then do not hesitate to contact the Hotline at 828-6262 or CommandersHotline@mountainhome.af.mil. Not all Hotlines are published, but if you leave your name and phone number or e-mail address, I will make sure you get a reply.



Col. Charles Shugg

Col. Charles Shugg
366th Fighter Wing commander

Charging ahead, raising the bar

By Chief Master Sgt. Mason Clarke
366th Security Forces Squadron

Here I sit, once again, in the Chief's Gallery during another monthly promotion ceremony. Just like nearly everyone else in the audience, I sit in anticipation, trying to pick out the escorts who are about to wail on their appointed promotee. Also like nearly everyone else, I notice the condition of promotees' uniforms and how they look in those uniforms, how they present and carry themselves and even how they salute the presiding official. You can draw many conclusions about an individual in those few seconds. Can you fairly sum up the total worth of an individual in those few seconds? Of course not, but we're all human and tend to do just that.

Of most interest to me personally, is the part when the NCO charge is read. At that very moment, you can, without reservation, draw the conclusion that each promotee is willingly accepting the charge of office. Each month I watch the line of promotees, waiting to catch the one who doesn't at least mouth the words "I do" when asked if they accept their charge. Thankfully, I haven't caught one yet. That's a comfort to me as I close my career. I know that the troops and the Air Force will be well cared for. That tells me our newest crop of NCOs is going to be better than some who came before them.

The public affirmation of "I do" tells the world that each promotee unconditionally accepts the responsibilities cited. There are no caveats, there is no negotiation and there is no picking and choosing of the charges that "fit" into their leadership style and ignoring the ones that don't.

Colonel Shugg often closes the ceremony by reminding the promotees that they weren't promoted on what they've done, but for their potential to positively affect the

Air Force in their new grade. I'll take that thought one more step by saying you can't change yesterday but you can influence tomorrow. Each promotion carries with it a new birth of sorts. Each promotion is an opportunity to start over, to start fresh. I didn't pattern my career after the charges to ensure my promotability. I did it because I accepted those charges as a personal responsibility.

Supervisors often guide subordinates toward a particular course of action with the phrase "it'll be a good bullet for your EPR." How did we get to that point? Why do we feel the need to lure subordinates into fulfilling their readily accepted responsibilities? It appears our baseline of "average" may have evolved to a level a bit lower than intended in the NCO charge. The "average" supervisor doesn't routinely support organizational and wing activities. The "average" supervisor is slow to pursue professional development through off-duty educational programs.

It still amazes me how many senior NCOs haven't completed an associates degree or PME commensurate with their grade. The "average" supervisor doesn't always ensure compliance from subordinates. I can't tell you how many times I've not only corrected a compliance issue, but corrected the NCO who observed the infraction and took no action to correct it. NCOs who fully embrace their responsibilities, appear to be the minority. I share the responsibility for creating the "average" NCO.

I share this responsibility with every NCO who came before me and those who will follow me. We are given the responsibility for shaping the leaders who will replace us far sooner than we may expect. Have we improved what we inherited from previous leaders? Sure.

Is there still room for improvement? You bet. We've accomplished some miraculous things in our tenure. So,

rather than expending the effort to analyze how we got here, perhaps our time would be better spent guiding our promotees toward honoring their charge of office and raising the bar of "average." A word of caution is appropriate at this point. This transformation will not happen overnight. Those who have been around a while remember the impact the quota system had on some careers when we transitioned from APRs to EPRs. We don't need to repeat that mistake. For the vast majority, when expectations are well known and there's time to adjust, nearly anyone can make a transformation. And in this case, we already have a pool of willing participants. After all, as I said earlier, I haven't seen anyone balk at saying "I do" during the promotion ceremonies. Have you?

By far, the toughest transformation is from Airman to NCO. In a perfect world, each newly promoted NCO would be transferred to a new unit or base where they could walk in as an NCO holding at least an assumed position of authority. Those newly promoted NCOs have to cope with their transition. Hopefully, the previous peers will recognize and accept the new status of their co-worker easing the transition. If not, the new NCO may be placed in a position to impose their new authority on subordinates. This must be done cautiously. Often, a frank private discussion with the offender is all that's needed for them to gain understanding of your new role and responsibilities. I compare the use of rank to the use of deadly force. As warriors, we're trained to use deadly force only as a last resort. As NCOs, we should also train to reserve the use of rank as the last resort.

This transition may seem like a daunting task to a new promotee. Consider the number making the very same transition before you over the nearly 58 year history of the Air Force. The vast majority made the transition, there's a high probability that you'll make it too.



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Coverage: Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the public affairs office at 828-6800 or by sending an electronic message to pa.news@mountainhome.af.mil.

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Women change America

By Col. Lawra Lee
366th Medical Group

This year's theme, "Women Change America" is a terrific one, and what I find absolutely appropriate, is that it's a declarative statement: Women change America. In my opinion, service to one's nation is one of the noblest endeavors anyone, men and women, can undertake in that goal of changing America.

Since the birth of our nation, women have been working to make this country a great one. Here's just a short list of female firsts.

Women such as Sandra Day O'Connor, Supreme Court Justice, Madeleine Albright, the first female U. S. Secretary of State, and most recently, Condoleezza Rice, the first African American female Secretary of State, all have paved the way and helped us crack that glass ceiling just a little more.

Women serving their country in the military services are no different. We're indebted to those tenacious women in uniform who refused to take no for an answer.

Women like Staff Sgt. Esther McGowan, the first woman in the Air Force. Women like Brig. Gen. Jeanne Holm, the first woman to be promoted to that rank in the Air Force. How about Grace Peterson, the Air Force's first female Chief Master Sergeant, or the Air Force Academy's first female cadet, Joan Olsen.

Learning about the outstanding contributions of Generals Arnold and LeMay are extremely important in our development as professional Airmen. But one day, I'd like to open a PME volume, and read about the contributions of Chief Peterson and Gen. Holm.

Women, there's no such thing as a free lunch.

My charge to you is to continue serving your nation proudly, to always leave wherever you've been a better place than when you got there, and be the foundation for the next generation of women that follow us. Because: Women Change America.

Take threats seriously, prepare for attacks

By Lt. Col. Dean Lee
366th Fighter Wing

There I was. Poised at the tri-borders of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait. It was early morning, day one of DESERT STORM.

We were in MOPP II, condition Green. It was 35 degrees, raining and a great day to invade Iraq.

Then, it happened. We heard a huge "Bang" that completely surprised us all.

We all dove for cover, then our worst nightmare happened; the chemical alarms all went off.

"ALARM RED MOPP 4, ALARM RED MOPP 4" came the urgent call over my command net radio. "I can't believe this is happening to me" was my first thought, followed by my second thought of "You'd better get your chemical mask on dude!" I donned my mask, hunkered down in my foxhole, and hoped that it was not already too late.

As an Air Liaison Officer (ALO) with the 1st Cavalry Division, 1/7th Cavalry Squadron my job was to call in Air Strikes on enemy forces with which my Army reconnaissance unit came in contact.

But during this attack, there was a low obscuring cloud deck and I was unable to contact the Division TACP for air support. I checked my guys and they all had donned their MOPP gear and were hunkered down.

We looked over to our left and there was a young Army Corporal that was obviously struggling.

He was inside a small Mobiflex tent and was yelling "HELP ME, HELP ME!" He had been on the nightshift at the Tactical Operations Center and was trying to get some shut eye when the attack occurred. Needless to say, he was startled by the "attack" and woke in a panic to the chemical alarms.

We went to help. After finding a chemical mask, we literally had to tackle the tent to calm him down and then reach in to put his mask on. As it turned out,

the large explosion we heard was a lightning strike on one of our vehicles. For some reason it had triggered all the chemical alarms.

However, it was a real eye opener for us all. It hit home that a chemical attack was a real possibility.

We all took the chemical threat very serious after that.

Since then, when training to a chemical threat during Phase II exercises, I always remember that experience. I was glad to have had good instruction on how to properly wear the chemical gear and what to do in case of attack.

Now that the Gunfighters are planning to deploy into a hostile AOR, we need to ensure all are ready for the worst case scenario.

Though chemical weapons are not the imminent threat, we must be prepared for anything. In addition to chemical training, we have new types of threats we must also prepare for.

Air Force personnel deployed into Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries face terrorist threats at all times and must be ready.

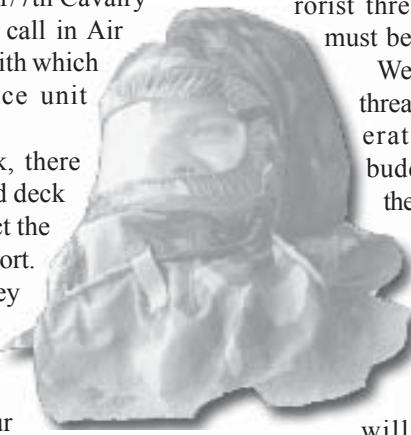
Weapons use, chemical threat training, convoy operations, and self-aid buddy care are perhaps the most prominent skills we need to hone. In our upcoming Phase II exercise, Gunfighters will be challenged with a robust scenario that will require a sound

knowledge of alarm signals, MOPP conditions, what to do when attacked, and how to carry out primary duties in a threatening environment.

We may also see some convoy operations requiring self protection. We certainly will see some events that will require self-aid buddy care, so be ready.

More important though, is that we are training to do these things for real as Gunfighters begin to deploy this summer.

Are you going to be ready when you hear that urgent call of "ALARM RED MOPP 4?"



Top 90's

The following airmen scored above 90 percent on their CDC examinations.



Tech. Sgt. Victor Martin



Airman 1st Class Nolan Johnsen



Airman 1st Class Brian Pierce



Airman 1st Class Maria Resurreccion



Airman 1st Class Patrik Sena



Airman 1st Class Justin Summers



Senior Airman Phu Thai Ton

Military women - seeing through 'the glass ceiling'

By Ms. Michelle Lippert
366th Mission Support Squadron

I grew up near Scott AFB, Ill., thinking all I wanted was to be married and raise children. This was in the late '60s and early '70s. I was the oldest of five daughters. My mom stayed home while my dad went to work. I don't have any problems with my expectations and think it is still a legitimate aspiration. The difference today is that a woman has choices. In the '60s and '70s the only choice a woman had in my small town in the Midwest was which house they were going to live in and how close they were going to be to their parents. I joined the Civil Air Patrol when I was 13 and was exposed to the Air Force. I got to tour different AF bases. I was working two dead-end jobs and couldn't see any improvements in the future. Remembering my experiences in CAP I called the AF re-

cruiter and said get me in the AF soon before I change my mind! He said if I signed up for open mechanics I could leave within two weeks. True to his word I was soon at basic training. I became a sheet metal specialist working on RF4Cs at RAF Alconbury, England. I was doing something I had never thought about doing and was enjoying it. Life in the maintenance field during the '80s was definitely like living in a fish bowl. Some males wanted to treat women like men; others thought the women should be humored since they really couldn't do the job. The women also were not consistent. Some wanted to be just like men and others wanted to be pampered by the men. There were definitely mixed signals flying around. The best male supervisors were the ones that took the time to train the females and then let them do the job. The best female worker was the one that wanted to learn the job and took pride in doing it. As I reflect on my 27 years as an Airman on active duty, a NCO and SNCO with the Air National

Guard and as a civilian employee at Mountain Home AFB, women have come a long way. We have female pilots flying in combat. Gender is no longer a criteria when selecting people for jobs and deployments. It has not been a smooth road, maybe quotas were used, maybe women were selected just because they were female, but change is never easy. Are there still glass ceilings? Probably. Are there still problems between the sexes? Absolutely! Can we do a better job of utilizing the strengths females bring to the military? Definitely! The bottom line is individuals are aggressively working the issues.

Can women have it all? Is life harder for them if they want a career and raise children? Is the military harder now for women because of deployments? I can't answer those questions except from my personal experiences. Life is what you make it. You decide what your priorities are and make them happen. At least today you have the choices to make!



Security Forces Clean House

Photos by Staff Sgt. Kathy Myles

Staff Sgt. Ian Bock leads the group from the 366th Security Forces Squadron as they prepare to execute their search of the base housing construction area. The search of more than 84 new housing units and 50 vehicles was conducted by SFS in cooperation with Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, Air Force Office of Special Investigation Agents and the Elmore County Sheriff's Office.

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Koskovich
Gunfighter public affairs

A sting operation resulting in the detainment of five illegal aliens and two others was conducted by security forces March 8 in the new base housing construction area.

The search of more than 84 new housing units and 50 vehicles was conducted by SFS in cooperation with Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, Air Force Office of Special Investigation Agents and the Elmore County Sheriff's Office.

"In addition to the five illegal aliens, one individual was

detained for possession of methamphetamines, marijuana and drug paraphernalia," said Staff Sgt. Ian Bock, 366th Security Forces Squadron. "Another was detained for driving on a suspended license."

The search was conducted based on information received during an on-going investigation indicating the presence of drugs and illegal aliens in the base housing construction area, said Sergeant Bock.

The group conducting the operation was comprised primarily of Security Forces Airmen, many of whom volunteered to participate in the search during their off-duty time.

"We (SFS) learned of a number of individuals who had allegedly entered the country illegally or were bringing controlled substances on to the installation," said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Evans, 366th SFS, operations superintendent. "In order to maintain the safety and security of our citizens, we engaged the resources of the base security and legal community as well as our law enforcement colleagues, to establish the right plan."

The plan included identification card and warrant checks on all personnel found within the housing construction area.

"The basic purpose of the operation was to help ensure the safety, security and well-being of all people on Mountain Home Air Force Base," said Sergeant Bock.

More than 130 civilian contractors IDs were checked during the operation. Consent searches were also performed on all vehicles in the area.

The five individuals found to be illegal aliens were turned over to Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcements agents.



Senior Master Sgt. Bradford Paslay and Staff Sgt. Andrew Moore, 366th Security Forces Squadron, do some planning before the start of the search, which was conducted based on information received during an on-going investigation in the base housing construction area.



Immigration Enforcement agent Brian Nyland pats down a suspect during the search.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kathy Myles

Above: Methamphetamines, marijuana and drug paraphernalia confiscated during the search. Right: 1st Lt. Ruth Creutz verifies the authenticity of identification presented during the search. Below: Airman 1st Class Mallory Dinkle Airman Anthony Reichelt, 366th Security Forces Squadron, handcuff a suspect.



Security Forces Investigators headed up the planning and coordination for the operation and claim it was one of the best seen to date.

“The coordination that went into this operation, along with the support we received from our civilian counterparts, provided a very safe and controlled situation,” said Sergeant Evans.

Though the operation went smoothly, SFS personnel were still cautious as to how the operation was executed.

“Our biggest concern was how individuals would react once they were confronted,” said Sergeant Evans. “The professionalism of all involved kept the operation non-confrontational and virtually incident free.”

The operation, though not the first of its kind conducted on base, was not routine and provided valuable training for SFS personnel.

“It was a great learning experience for all participants, though the real benefit is to the people that live and work on the installation,” said Sergeant Bock.

“This is just another example of what we (SFS) do day-to-day to keep everyone on this base safe from criminals,” he said.

SFS personnel claimed to gain more than training from participating in the search.

“Our folks gained a greater satisfaction that they really do make a difference here at Mountain Home AFB. Our job satisfaction is not based on the number of incidents we process, but how many we are able to stop,” said Sergeant Evans.

Sergeant Evans said SFS personnel show equal concern for all areas of the base.

“On the flightline or in the housing areas, our cops strive daily to ensure that those who work and live here can do so without fear,” he said. “When called upon to remove a threat that affects our community’s well-being, we do so as if it were a call for combatant support.”

Operations such as this, according to all sources, are critical to keeping Mountain Home AFB a safe and mission effective installation.

“The base is where all of us work and most of us live. Crimes that affect other municipalities totally detract from our ability to accomplish our collective mission,” said Sergeant Evans.

“Knowing that undesirables possibly frequent the base and even temporarily work here, causes our community distractions that in time will affect our ability to execute our Fighter Wing’s objectives,” he said.

SFS operations personnel said the operation proved that all agencies involved can effectively cooperate toward a common goal.

Sergeant Evans said, “This was a fantastic opportunity to show the cohesiveness within our base leadership, law enforcement and legal communities to maintain the safe environment of Mountain Home AFB.”

